

The BackBulb

C A R M E L O R C H I D S O C I E T Y

February 2024



February Speaker: John OConnell

Sex, Deceit, and Abandonment, the Secret Lives of Orchids Revealed!

If orchids had a reality TV show it would be more like Real Housewives of Monterey than Wild Kingdom. Love em, leave em, abandon the children, yep, this is fodder for reality TV for sure. Everyone knows that orchids are flamboyant, and you may have heard about their wild sex lives, but what drives these crazy, flashy flowers to such extraordinary lengths?

John should have known that the botany degree would come back to haunt him. VP's and orchid societies are always looking for speakers with new topics who will perform speak for free, so he should have been more careful about regaling the COS VP with tales of wild orchid sex (pollination in polite society). A bit of flattery, and begging, and presto! The March program is taken care of for an unbeatable price too.

John's orchid habit started innocently enough when he was given an orchid as a house warming present. It would be ten years before that first orchid bloomed again.

Along the way that first Cattleya was joined by a Phalaenopsis then, upon discovering the Atlanta Orchid Show, a little Lycaste. he didn't realize it at the time, but the Lycaste was the beginning of his fascination, some would say obsession, with orchids.

Now many years and several hundred orchids latter, orchids continue to fascinate him.



One of the deceivers (at POE)

1
February Speaker
2
Upcomming Events

In order to provide a selection of treats at our meetings, we are asking members with last names that start with the letter **M thru R** to bring refreshments to the meeting.

COS Officers

President

Amanda Nixon

VP Program

John OConnell
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Carolyn Salmon

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Anna Narvaez-Helms
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Sonya Weininger

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BackBulb Editor & Webmaster

John OConnell

Membership

Amanda Nixon

Upcoming Events

February

2/5 Monday COS February Meeting

2/16-18 POE, County Fair Building Golden Gate Park (and POE is a little early this year)

March

3/2 Saturday COS March Meeting

3/8-10 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show

3/22-24 Santa Clara Valley Orchid Society Display and Sale
Westgate Mall, 1600 Saratoga Ave, San Jose

Future Meetings:

Feb. 5, Mon. 7 pm: John OConnell, Orchid Polination

Mar. 2, Sat 2 pm: Mitch Snyder, Zygo intergenerics

April 6, Sat 2 pm: Cheri Wagner, Hydroponics for Orchids

May 6, Mon. 7 pm: Bob Hamilton, Victorian Orchid Craze

June 3, Mon 7 pm: Leon Glicenstein, TBD

July Greenhouse tour - TBD

Aug. 5, Mon. 7 pm: Peter Lin, TBD

Sep. BBQ - TBD

Oct. 5, **Sat.** 2 pm: James Shao, Terrestrials

Nov. 8-9: Fall Orchid Market

Dec. 2, Mon. 6 pm: Holiday Party 6-9pm



Pleurothallis leptotifolia
in John's greenhouse

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Please Help with Plant Tables

In the past speakers could reliably be depended on to provide a plant table for our meetings, and in the case of speakers who could not provide a plant table then there were wholesale orchid vendors nearby that we could buy from. Not anymore. Speakers presenting on Zoom and the demise of local wholesale orchid nurseries has put us in dire straights when it comes to plant tables. The Paphs gifted to us from the estate

of Scott Collins carried us through 2023, but they are all gone now as is Carol's excess plants from the estate of Carol Easton. So we are reduced to asking our members to please donate plants, orchid related supplies, or orchid themed merchandise (books, jewelry etc.) for our future plant tables. If you have anything to donate please call Carolyn Salmons 831-917-3386 (texts are best) to see when we need them.



A couple of *Laelia anceps* in Carolyn's greenhouse

COS Board Meeting Minutes, Jan. 17, 2024

IN ATTENDANCE: Janette Ford, Anna Narvaez-Helms, Amanda Nixon, Kathie Ritter, Carolyn Salmon, Chris Thomas, Cathy Walmsley, Sonia Weininger.

President Amanda Nixon called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. There was no discussion of minutes of the previous board meeting. Amanda disseminated an updated member list.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Janette reports the club's end-of-2023 bank balance as \$5,952.12, with another \$6,000 in CDs. This does not include a recent \$125 check from the Ikebana Society, and a \$50 membership renewal. Janette has emailed copies of the financial details to board members. Carolyn made a motion – and Anna seconded – to accept the Treasurer's Report. It passed on a voice vote.

We discussed the probability that club expenses will be higher this year than last. Post Office box rental and stamps are already up in price. Chris suggested we look at 2022 and 2023 figures to create a new budget, even if it's a guesstimate. Janette said she'd send the 2022 figures by email.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: All agreed that the Jan. 8 webinar was excellent, from audio quality to program content! No February topic has been lined up yet. Sonia suggested Cheri Wagner of the Santa Cruz Orchid Society (Hydroponics), and said she'll contact her. Kathie also suggested a "group participation" idea – everyone bring their "worst plant," or the one they

really need advice on, which could spark some good discussion.

Carolyn said she has sent about 15 email messages to a variety of potential speakers for future meetings. Fred Clarke is "already booked."

Angelique Nguyen (Orchids of Vietnam) is a possibility. Carolyn said John (O'Connell) would contact Dan Newman of Hanging Gardens – Chris said she's in regular touch with Dan and will be at his greenhouse in early Feb., so she'll follow up with him. Board members also suggested reaching out to the woman who owns the adjoining greenhouse (Shelldance Gardens), and those in the same area: Bob Hamilton, John Leathers and Joe Parker.

Carolyn pointed out that speakers' expenses vary drastically, depending on their travel costs and fees (the latter can be up to \$450). The club also offers \$200 for speakers to bring a plant table.

We informally decided to encourage members to step up their donations of plants, orchid accessories and orchid-themed items to fill out the plant table. Plants must, of course, be clean and bug-free! John can put this request in the next Backbulb newsletter.

We also need to encourage more people to bring plants for "Show & Tell" – and if they're too large or unwieldy, take a photo and send to John, who is always looking for good pics for the Backbulb!

TECH DISCUSSION: We discussed the process of updating the website and that we could pay more attention to Mailchimp and Facebook accounts. Kathie said she'd be willing to learn

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more about Mailchimp and Facebook. We briefly discussed having speakers present by Zoom, which could save on cost but doesn't help with the plant table. Amanda and Chris both have Zoom accounts that could be used in these cases.

CLUB OUTREACH (listed roughly by date):

- * There is definite interest in learning how we might be involved with the Monterey Parks Division's "Horticulture Faire & Plant Exchange" (it appears to always be in March, but no date for 2024 is online yet) – seedlings, plant cuttings, native & drought-tolerant plant info, etc., all free and available to the public.
- * MEarth Carmel has an Earth Day Celebration (Earth Day is Apr. 22 this year), so it's worth looking at options for club participation.
- * The Carmel Valley Garden Club has an event in May – we've apparently participated before, so that is an option.
- * Pacific Grove Adult Education has reached out to us to see if we'd be interested in teaching one or two sections of a gardening class just underway for people with disabilities. We decided it's best to either observe a class or talk with the teacher to see what types of content would be most needed. Amanda says PGAE has also suggested teaching a full-semester orchid course, which would require creating a curriculum and deciding 1) who teaches what... and 2) how rudimentary or advanced we'd want it to be. For now, Cathy,

Chris and Irene (when she's back in town) will be the "committee" to look into these classes.

- * Chris mentioned the Treasure Valley Orchid Society (Boise, ID) has had success with repotting events at retail nurseries – people bring in plants and club members repot them for \$5 apiece. The club keeps the money – the nursery benefits from selling plants, pots, etc. (and also supplies the bark). Club members bring their own tools, gloves, etc. Anna said she'll contact Hana Gardens to see if they'd be interested.
- * And there is enthusiastic agreement that we should have a booth at the popular West End Celebration in Sand City, coming up Aug. 24-25.

We did not do the planned "debrief" about the club's Fall Orchid Market (Nov. 10-11) because not all board members could be in attendance tonight. We hope to cover it at the next meeting.

Janette moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.; Kathie seconded. Motion passed on a voice vote. Thanks again to Carolyn Salmon for hosting the meeting!

Respectfully submitted: Chris Thomas

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Membership Time!

It's that time again, time for your otherwise nice, friendly society board members to nag you about paying your membership dues. As much as we would like to have your money to pay for our fabulous monthly speakers, what we really want is for you to come hear the speakers, buy the raffle tickets and take home all the interesting plants on our monthly raffle tables. None of that will happen if you are not interested enough to pay the pittance we ask for our yearly dues. Most orchids that we will kill in less than a year cost more than a years membership! So all we ask is that you pay your dues, come to the meetings and have a wonderful time!



Laelia gouldiana in John's greenhouse

CARMEL ORCHID SOCIETY 2024 Membership Application

Please make checks payable to the Carmel Orchid Society and mail to: Carmel Orchid Society - Membership, P.O. Box 223462 Carmel CA 93922-3462
Please print

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ zip _____

Telephone _____

Email address _____

If you were referred by a current member, please provide
his/her name _____

Renewal New Member

Member of the American Orchid Society

Membership
Single **\$35** _____
Couple **\$50** _____
Vendor **\$50** _____
Add an additional **\$10** to receive
the newsletter via USPS

71st
Annual

San Francisco Orchid Society Presents:
Pacific Orchid Exposition Show and Plant Sale

Timeless Orchids

February 16-17
10am - 5pm

February 18
10am - 4pm

Preview Night:
Feb 15 6-9 pm
(Must be 21 or older)

County Fair Building
1199 9th Ave.
San Francisco, CA



SANTA BARBARA INTERNATIONAL ORCHID SHOW

76th

2024
MARCH 8-10
9 AM - 5 PM

ORCHIDS

FLORAL GEMS
OF NATURE



EARL WARREN SHOWGROUNDS
HWY 101 & LAS POSITAS
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

\$20 GENERAL ADMISSION
\$30 3-DAY PASS
(CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER FREE WITH ADULT)

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